

Farm Notes.

COAL TAR FOR HEN ROOSTS.

Coal tar is one of the best disinfectants. If it will not destroy hen lice it will at least prevent their appearance if used plentifully on and around the roosts. The boxes for nests should be lined with tarred paper. The odor from this will fill the feathers of hens and repel vermin.

SUPERPHOSPHATE FOR VEGETABLES.

English farmers first learned the beneficial effects of phosphate on turnips. It is equally good for cabbage, either in seed bed or after transplanting. For cabbage it has a specific effect in preventing the disease called club root, which is apt to prevail where cabbages are grown more than one year on the same land.

WORKING BULLS.

In some parts of Europe bulls are worked the same as oxen are with us. If rightly handled and made always to obey they can be kept for service eight or ten years without danger, and a yoke of bulls will do more work than oxen of equal weight. Our best bulls become cross after they are two or three years old, and are turned off to the butcher.

CABBAGE SEED.

Do not plant the stumps of cabbage to grow seed from. You may thereby get cabbage seed that costs nothing; but like most other things got without expense it will be worth even less than it costs. With a crop requiring so much labor as cabbage poor seed is a costly damage. The best seedsmen are particular to select the choicest heads and leave them on the roots when growing seed.

FEEDING VALUABLE COWS.

Cows which give most and richest milk need careful feeding, as excessive stimulation of milk glands causes garget, and often milk fever. Many a valuable Jersey cow has been destroyed by trying to force an unnatural butter yield. We believe in good feeding of all cows, but where the tendency is largely to butter production a good deal of discretion must be used in not giving too much.

HOLSTEIN CALVES.

Holsteins are not a diminutive breed, and their calves, when they have a fair chance, are always particularly fine, because of the large amount of milk the dam gives. But if only the male is full blood, a grade Shorthorn calf from a native cow will be worth more for the butcher than a half blood of any other breed. The difference in value is still greater if the calf is to be kept till one, two or three years old.

CAKED BAG IN COWS.

At this season cows in full flow of milk will need careful looking after lest their bags become caked and hard. Rubbing with lard will relieve the soreness and will almost immediately be followed by an increase of milk, as nothing dries off a cow faster than a sore and feverish condition of the bag. In some cases so much milk may be given as to require milking three times a day, morning, noon and night.

TILLAGE IS MANURE.

On rich soil thorough cultivation will for a time take the place of extra manuring. It makes all fertility available, and therefore exhausts the soil more rapidly. We have implements now at least one hundred per cent. better for cultivating the soil than those in use twenty, thirty or forty years ago. This, perhaps, is one reason why it is harder to maintain fertility now than then. We get larger crops by thorough tillage, and this uses up plant food faster.

ABORTION IN COWS.

Wherever cows are kept in large herds losses from abortion are common. If one cow aborts, as is very possible among many, the trouble seems to become an epidemic and goes through the herd. Among those farmers remote from dairies who keep only one or two cows abortion is not much more common than it used to be. Thus in farming, more than in any other business, there are drawbacks which prevent doing anything on a very large scale, though this, wherever possible, would doubtless save much needless labor.

CARBONACEOUS MANURES FOR CORN.

The corn crop delights in soil rich in vegetable mould. This is mainly because such soil is porous, loose and mellow for the roots of this crop. Manures containing much vegetable

matter also serve by their decomposition to keep the soil warm. On land naturally cold, quick-acting, heating manure is very important, but on light sand the tendency is to make the soil too hot and injure the crop during summer and fall drought.

MAKING HORSES EAT SLOWLY.

Old horses often get in the habit of swallowing their food too fast. This is from a painful realization of not getting a square meal if they delay. None the less the habit is a bad one, and should be corrected. A few clean cobble stones mixed in the oats in their box and left there will cause them to pick the feed over slowly and masticate it more thoroughly. Cut feed is less likely to be eaten rapidly than whole grain, and dry meal than that which has been wet.

THE CREAMING OF MILK.

Prof. Armsby, of the Wisconsin Experiment Station, says that the greater the difference of temperature between milk and the surrounding medium, the more rapid will be the creaming. In a series of experiments, the amount of cream obtained ranged from ninety-two to ninety-eight per cent. of the whole by the well-known Cooley system, while the amount of fat in the skim-milk was reduced from seven to two per cent. It was plain from the results attained that when milk is promptly set in water containing plenty of broken ice, and having a temperature slightly above freezing, as complete a creaming is obtained in eleven to twelve hours as is possible by any method.

DEMAND FOR CANNED TOMATOES.

English people have developed a decided liking for tomatoes, and as their climate is too cold for this vegetable the demand must be supplied in its canned state. Probably the over-production of canned tomatoes a few years since made the basis for a more extended use of them, and thus a better demand in future. Gardeners and farmers who grow tomatoes will recover part of their losses again when canned tomatoes could hardly be given away. It is sometimes a good thing in the end for prices of any product to go very low, as this increases the use of it by those who could not afford it before.

APPLYING PLASTER.

The rule in using gypsum should be, a little at a time and often. It is best applied on the leaves and before a rain; but in midsummer or after it will increase the size of ears of corn when a second application is made, as compared with that only plastered early in the season. Its extraordinary effect on vegetation under some circumstances suggests the idea that it has often some power to decompose air and make its nitrogen available to plant food. If this theory is correct one can well afford to apply gypsum frequently in the hope of occasionally hitting the right time and condition for receiving the most benefit.

BROOM CORN.

W. C. W., in *Texas Farm and Ranch*: Broom corn can be planted, so as to make crop, as late as the 1st of July. Early planting insures two crops with one cultivation. The preparation of the soil and the cultivation is very much the same as for any other crop, the object being to keep the weeds down. The planting should be done by a careful hand, dropping the seed so as to secure an even stand—if on strong soil, say twelve stalks to the foot; if the land is thin, less in proportion. If the planting is properly done, it need never be chopped to a stand, as is the custom with cotton. It will only be necessary to thin the thickest spots by hand when it is being gone over with the hoe for the chopping out of the weeds. When the crop is well headed out, and seed in the milky state, it should be cut. In preparing for that you should commence by bending two rows together, at the proper height, at an angle of forty-five degrees across the row, so as to form a table on which to lay the brush when it is cut. The table walks backward, binding an armful from one row then from the other, and so on. When it is cut it should be hauled into the shed and cleaned of the seed while it is yet green, then placed on shelves under shelter, arranged by laying down 2x3 strips, then another about one foot above, then another same distance above, and so on. It should be spread out on shelves evenly, not more than two or three inches thick.

As it dries it can be crowded upon the shelves so as to leave more room for green corn. About two weeks is necessary for it to dry for baling. It needs attention in wet weather to keep it from mow-burning and moulding. Do not let it lie in the sun over half an hour a day after being cut, as the sun will bleach it, and the peagreen color insures top prices.

Remember this: The only secret about broom corn saving is to cut it before the seeds are matured, and cure it entirely in the shade. Where the brush is long, the stalk should be cut about four inches; if the straw is short, cut the stalk so that stalk and straw will measure not less than eighteen inches.

CULTIVATING BURR CLOVER.

In answer to an inquirer in the April number of *The Cultivator* as to the merits of Burr clover, I will give you my experience with it. Some six years ago I obtained a few seed and planted a small place, which I have plowed only once since. It is now (the 10th of April) from eighteen to twenty inches high, and as thickly set as you ever saw red clover. It is perfectly beautiful, so much so that those who see it are anxious for seed. In regard to stock eating it, I have never yet seen any kind of animals refuse it. All my horses, mules, cows and hogs are very fond of it. The chickens and turkeys begin to eat it as soon as it comes out of the ground, and continue to do so all the while. A farmer has but to see it growing to appreciate the value of it. When once set it will re-seed itself for years without any more planting. It dies down in June to reappear in September, and should be planted early between those months, for if planted in November or December it will be liable to get killed. If sown in time it will withstand our coldest winters. The past winter was very severe, killing all small grain; nevertheless this clover remained green and flourishing. In regard to its requiring very rich soil, it will grow if planted in the road, but like everything else, the richer the soil the more luxuriant the growth. I have a friend who claims he could not afford to raise hogs and sheep but for his clover fields. I am confident it will prove one of the best renovators of worn lands we can have, as it is easily exterminated when desired. I only wish all the old red hills of Georgia were set in it. Imagine the contrast to tourists, in passing along the line of railways. They would be favorably impressed with the beautiful sight. I ask Georgians, therefore, to obtain a few seed of something and hide these unsightly red hills. It will not only make the country more pleasing to the eye, but will prove beneficial for the future generation.

J. W. MORAN.

Monroe County, Ga.
—*Southern Cultivator*.

HOW MANY SHEEP TO THE ACRE?

Mr. B. F. Magee in an address before the Indiana Sheep Growers' Association, in speaking of pasturing sheep, says: "There is one thing about pasturing sheep that has been overlooked, viz: the damage done to the grass by being run over by the flock. While I believe one acre of good grass would keep five, or may be eight, sheep well, I do not believe 100 acres would keep 500 sheep. Five sheep would probably do but little damage to one acre, even though they were confined to it, for in grazing they would make but few tracks over it in a day, and would easily find fresh grass each day. But suppose we put 500 sheep in a 100 acre lot; if each five sheep would confine themselves to their own particular acre, they would probably do well in summer. But they will not do this, and right here is where theory and practice part company. Our five sheep start out to graze, and the 495 go along with them. Now, a sheep is a dainty creature and likes clean food. So the hindermost part of the flock keep pushing ahead, paying little or no attention to what has already been run over, and being in each other's way, each would go over ten times as much ground, before it is filled as it ought. And having so much more work to get its food, it does not do so well as one that can satisfy itself with little or no exertion. Going over the trail too frequently, and picking about dung and urine for grass, is doubtless what makes large flocks so liable to disease.

VALUE OF TOBACCO STALKS.

The remarkable use of tobacco stalks as a fertilizer is thus presented by a correspondent of the *Richmond Dispatch*:

I write now to give my experience in the use of stalks as a mulching for Irish potatoes, which suggests their value in another way. Last summer I planted a crop of late potatoes, and when well up I had them worked, and intended covering the ground between the rows thickly with tobacco stalks. I commenced the operation, but after I had covered half of the patch and half of one row besides a rain set in prevented further work in that direction until the plants were too large, as I thought, to be benefitted by applying the stalks. Thus one half and a half row of the patch was covered with stalks and the other half was not. On the half that was not covered with stalks there were myriads of Colorado bugs, and it was only by the exercise of untiring vigilance that its entire destruction was prevented. On the other half, that was covered with stalks, even down to the half row, there was not a single bug to be found during the whole season. The tobacco stalks seemed to have formed a line of demarcation beyond which the bugs could not be induced to venture. This was my experience, and from it I conclude that tobacco stalks when applied as a mulching for Irish potatoes will prevent the ravages of the Colorado bug. I intended to have tried the experiment again this season, but was unable to do so.

E. E. BUFORD.

TREATMENT OF HOG CHOLERA.

State Veterinarian Atkins, of Wisconsin, has prepared a circular on the treatment of hog cholera. The circular says:

If the disease has prevailed the urgent necessity is a thorough cleaning and careful disinfection. After disposing of all old straw piles, manure heaps and similar substances, either by plowing under, burning or storing in a secluded place, the pens should be thoroughly cleaned by washing with a solution of carbolic acid in the proportion of five pounds to a barrel of water, or copperas, twenty-four pounds to the same quantity. After disinfection the doors and windows should be thrown open and light and air freely admitted. So great is the vitality of the virus that in some instances it will be advisable to abandon the keeping of hogs for a season. All communication between healthy and diseased herds should be suspended. Visiting infected premises out of curiosity or for gaining information has in several cases cost our farmers dearly, for unfortunately they not only carried home some knowledge of the symptoms of the disease, but about their clothes and on their shoes lurked the disease. The carcasses of diseased hogs should be buried deeply, and not sold for rendering.

RAISING PIGS.

The most important thing for the swine breeder at this season of the year is to get the greatest possible growth from his spring pigs. There is no period in the life of the hog when so great a return for the food consumed is possible as during the first six months, and it is here that the advantages of skillful feeding are apparent. Unless great care be taken, the growth of the pig will be seriously checked when it is from three to five weeks old. The milk of the dam, which was ample to promote a rapid growth in the litter of pigs during the first two or three weeks, is not sufficient to answer the demands of the same litter as they grow older; hence the pigs should early be taught to look elsewhere for a part of their sustenance. This is an easy matter; a little milk or nutritious food of any kind, in liquid form, placed conveniently by, where the pigs can have access to it at all times, but beyond the reach of the sow, will soon do the work; and it should be replenished frequently through the day. If this is attended to there will be no "stunting" of the pigs at this critical period, and their growth will be uniform and rapid. A good clover pasture is a valuable adjunct and helps wonderfully. The true secret of successful pork-making is to push the pig from the date of birth until it is big enough for the market; and the earlier the age at which this point can be reached, the greater is the return for the food consumed.

A slop made of corn and oats,

ground in about equal parts, with a little oil-meal added, makes the best food for the sow while suckling, to increase the flow of milk; and this, with clover pasture and plenty of soaked corn during the summer, will promote a rapid and healthy growth of the pigs.—*National Live-Stock Journal*.

GOOSE FARMING.

A goose farm in Virginia is said to cover 3,000 acres near the eastern shore of the State. Something like 5,000 geese are regularly kept, of several of the more important breeds. The birds are regularly fed and herders keep them from straying too far.

Among the statistics of the industry reported we find that about every six weeks the plucking takes place. Only the breast and a portion of the sides are touched, the feathers of the back, the wings and the tail being left intact. It requires nearly 100 average geese to furnish a pound of the down, though the smaller feathers, which are also taken, weigh much heavier. These feathers, however, form an entirely separate grade from the valuable down.

The average life of a goose is said to be forty years, and they produce from five to ten eggs per annum each, a large proportion of which are hatched. A bird hatched there in February is in condition for plucking the following August, and so on thereafter every six or eight weeks. The feathers are packed in sacks and sent to the Philadelphia factory, where they are trimmed, washed, steamed and otherwise prepared for their legitimate use.—*Farm, Field and Stockman*.

EXHAUSTED ORCHARDS.

In an address before the Western New York Horticultural Society, Mr. Woodward stated that one hundred barrels of apples remove from the land about as much phosphoric acid as one hundred bushels of wheat, and about as much potash as fifty bushels of wheat. The majority of all orchards are forced to produce a grain crop besides the fruit; and continuous cropping through perhaps fifty years has removed the two elements named, and exhausted the soil. Wet straw has generally been the only restitution made; a poor reward for the exhausted crops. No wonder that orchards are not productive, and their fruit of no better quality.

EIGHT MILLION DOLLARS A DAY.

Benj. P. Ware's remark in an essay on "Corn Culture," that the corn of this country, during the one hundred days required for its maturity, grows to the extent of \$8,000,000 in value per day, amazes one on first thought. He places the corn crop at 2,000,000,000 bushels, and at an average price as worth \$846,000,000. This sum is twice the value of the wheat crop for 1883, three times the value of the cotton crop, and more than ten times the value of the products of the gold and silver mines together.

MARKING SHEEP.

It is said that sheep may be effectually marked with dry Venetian red, by simply taking a pinch of the dry powder and drawing the enclosing thumb and finger through wool at the spot you wish to mark, loosening the powder as you do so. It will combine with the oil in the wool, and make a bright red mark that the rains will never wash out, and which, without injuring the wool, will endure from one shearing to another, while it can be readily cleansed out by the manufacturer.

TO KILL POTATO BUGS.

C. W. Hollowell, who has probably murdered more potato bugs than any man of our acquaintance, and evidently has not the fear of Bergh before his eyes, writes us, referring to the potato bug, that 4 pounds of Paris Green to 100 pounds of plaster is too big a dose. He says 4 pounds will scorch the potato vines like a killing frost. He recommends 1 pound of Paris Green to 100 pounds of land plaster, flour, ashes, or dust, put on while the dew is on and it will kill most of the bugs, but to kill them entirely requires a second application.

—A hard cold is oftentimes cured by a cup of hot lemonade taken at bedtime, as it produces perspiration.